United Nations A/54/472

General Assembly

Distr.: General
18 October 1999
English
Original: Spanish

Fifty-fourth session
Agenda item 9
General debate

Letter dated 13 October 1999 from the Permanent Representative of the Argentine Republic to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Acting on instructions from my Government, I have the honour to enclose herewith the text of the written statement of the Government of the Argentine Republic (see annex) in exercise of the right of reply to the statement of the delegation of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland dated 22 September 1999, contained in the annex to document A/54/420.

I should be grateful if you could arrange to have the text of the present letter and the annexed statement circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 9.

(*Signed*) Fernando **Petrella**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Statement of the Government of the Argentine Republic in exercise of the right of reply to the remarks made by the delegation of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in its letter of 22 September 1999 (see A/54/420)

The Government of the Argentine Republic fully endorses the ideas put forward by the President of Argentina, Mr. Carlos Saúl Menem during the general debate at the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly and recalls that the Assembly in its resolutions 2065 (XX) of 16 December 1965, 3160 (XXVIII) of 14 December 1973, 31/49 of 1 December 1976, 37/9 of 4 November 1982, 38/12 of 16 November 1983, 39/6 of 1 November 1984, 40/21 of 27 November 1985, 41/40 of 25 November 1986, 42/19 of 17 November 1987 and 43/25 of 17 November 1988, recognizes the existence of a dispute between the Governments of the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty over the Malvinas.

In those resolutions and in subsequent resolutions of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, the parties are invites to renew negotiations with a view to finding, as soon as possible, a peaceful solution to the dispute over sovereignty relating to the Malvinas, duly bearing in mind the interests of the population of the Malvinas.

In that context, the Government of Argentina rejects the terms of the letter of the United Kingdom regarding the claim that the "wishes" of the inhabitants of the Malvinas should be respected. The Argentine Republic has repeatedly proven its commitment to protect the "interests" of the islanders. The Argentine Constitution sets out as a national objective the recovery of the Malvinas, South Georgia Island and South Sandwich Islands and the corresponding maritime and island areas, while guaranteeing strict respect for the lifestyle of their inhabitants.

The Argentine Government trusts that, in response to the numerous invitations by the international community, and within the auspicious framework of bilateral relations, negotiations will be renewed with a view to reaching without further delay a peaceful and definitive solution to the dispute on sovereignty, in accordance with the wishes of the General Assembly and the Special Committee on Decolonization.